

Packaged, Shelf-Stable Pet Food **(“Cooked and Crunchy Kibble” or “Extruded” or “Hermetically Sealed” Pet Foods/Treats/Chews)**

Our understanding is that no animal health certification is required for fully processed cooked (finished, packaged, ready for retail sale, shelf-stable) pet food to be imported to Japan.

Fully processed cooked means materials must be:

- Cooked and dry (“crunchy”) (kibble type products); or
- Semi-moist products produced through extrusion; or
- Hermetically sealed.

[If materials do not meet the above criteria please see information below.]

Package labeling must indicate that product is for consumption by pets (this can be inferred as long as it is obvious to Japanese port authorities that product is not intended for feeding to livestock or use as fertilizer).

Exporters should still have their importers confirm prior to shipment with Japanese authorities at the port of entry that all required documentation is available.

Even though not required, a VS Form 16-4 may still be issued for shipments of these materials to Japan, as long as it has **no additional declarations added** and has otherwise been completed in compliance with all APHIS policies.

Other Pet Food and Pet Treats/Chews

Pet foods and treats that do not meet the above criteria are believed NOT to be eligible for export to Japan at this time unless they contain no animal origin ingredients other than fish and/or dairy. The requirements are under negotiation, and this webpage will be updated when a protocol is agreed upon.

Exception: Pet foods and treats that do not meet the above criteria (cooked and crunchy or hermetically sealed) but that contain no animal origin ingredients other than dairy and/or fish: Are believed to be eligible with a VS Form 16-4 with no additional declarations other than that the products contain no animal origin ingredients other than dairy and or fish. Additional statements may not be added to the VS Form 16-4. Exporters should have their importers confirm with the Japanese port authorities (at the port the product will enter Japan through) prior to export that the consignment will be permitted entry with the available VS Form 16-4.